

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced Tuesday that two water projects in the 23rd Congressional District are going to receive funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Both projects are located in Tornillo, in eastern El Paso County. The first is a conventional filtration system, funded at \$3.925 million. The second is a system to remove arsenic from drinking water, funded at \$1.985 million

“These stimulus projects are key to improving the lives of our residents who live in the poorer areas along the Texas-Mexico border,” Congressman Rodriguez said. “Everyone has the right to clean, safe drinking water and these shovel-ready projects will significantly improve the quality of life in Tornillo.”

Texas Rep. Chente Quintanilla, who represents the Tornillo area, commended Congressman Rodriguez for his leadership in getting the projects funded.

“For many years, Tornillo has been forgotten,” Quintanilla said. “These grants are a welcome relief to the many people who have problems with their drinking water over the years. I am proud of the Congressman for representing our residents and following through on these grants.”

The funds will be administered through the Texas Water Development Board’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund as part of an effort to improving and maintaining the state’s public drinking water system. The program provides low-interest loans to finance drinking water infrastructure improvements. The fund also provides funds to smaller, economically disadvantaged communities to encourage water pollution prevention. At least 20% of the funds provided under the Recovery Act are to be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements. Texas as a whole is receiving \$160 million to fund drinking water projects that are “shovel-ready” in accordance with the ARRA guidelines.

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